THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The scheme was sanctioned for the establishment of High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Mysore at a capital cost of Rs. 969.80 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 24.86 lakhs has already been spent. Installation of this HPT is likely to be completed during 2000 subject to availability of adequate resources and infrastructural facilities. An amount of Rs. 45.00 lakhs is proposed to be spent during 1998-99.

Objectives of CSIR

833. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether C.S.I.R. which was set up by the Government mainly to check the brain drain has succeeded in its objectives;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the constant increase in the rate of brain drain;

(c) whether C.S.I.R. has any such schemes also so as to ensure the return of the scientific talents in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The CSIR was set up by the Government in 1942 with a wide ranging charter of functions. The term brain drain at that time was neither in vogue nor a concern. As such it was not one of the functions enjoined on the CSIR.

(b) Government are not aware of any authentic study indicating that there is constant increase in the rate of 'brain drain'.

(c) and (d) In 1958, the Government initiated a scheme to attract back from abroad bright, young, talented Indians qualified in Scientists' Pool. The Scientists' Pool scheme is administered by CSIR. Since its inception around 7000 Indians from abroad have availed of the scheme.

Declaration of Marine Engineering and Research Institute as deemed University

834. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to declare Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta as a deemed University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Setting up of an Indian Maritime University comprising all the four Government run Maritime Training Institutes namely, Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Mumbai; Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta; Lal Bahadur Shastri College of Advanced Maritime Studies & Research, Mumbai; and Training Ship Chanakya, New Mumbai was recommended in May, 1992 by an Expert Committee, designated as Committee on Maritime Education and Training (COMET). An Empowered Committee constituted to examine the COMET recommendations suggested that the proposed University may be set up as a deemed University. During inter-Ministerial consultations, Department of Education stipulated that status of 'deemed University' to the Indian Maritime University could be conferred only after all the four Maritime Institutes are approved by the All India Council of Technical Education. The M.E.R.I., Calcutta, has already been accorded by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). Approval in respect of other Institutes is yet to be received.

Higher Call Changes to the Foreign Countries

835. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Teleco unications and the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. are charging exhorbitant rates from Indian consumers for calls to the foreign countries as brought out in the Patrika from Allahabad dated May 5, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether serious allegations systematic misappropriation and misuse of funds by VSNL have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) Yes. Some complaints regarding misappropriation/misuse of funds by VSNL have been received and the same are still under investigation.

Infrastructure Development of MTPS

836. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred for three units and other infrastructural development of Maithon Thermal Power Station till date;